

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 87

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: MIRJANA UGRINOV PRESENT POSITION

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 10/13/1950

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: FIBER/PAINTING/MIXED

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

AWARDS:

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

Mirjana J. Ugrinov, a native of Yugoslavia came to the U.S.A. in 1970. She studied costume and Stage Design at The Academy of Applied Arts in Belgrade, Yugoslavia prior to her arrival to the U.S.A. From 1973 to 1975 she was a Painting Major at Ohio State University, in Columbus, Ohio. From 1975 to 1977 she studied at Kent State University, in Kent, Ohio, where she received a B.F.A. degree in Studio Art with a Painting Major and Art History Minor. In 1982 she continued her studies in Art History at Case Western Reserve University Graduate School in Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1978 she opened Coventry Art Gallery in Cleveland Heights and directed it until 1981. During that time and until 1983, she was an instructor of studio and commercial art, and art history at Cooper School of Art in Cleveland, Ohio. From 1983 until 1985 she was a co-director of The Interior Design Department and an art instructor at Virginia Marti Fashion Institute in Lakewood, Ohio. Mirjana and her husband Branislav have been principals of Ugrinov Associates, an architectural development, planning and design firm, since 1983. This year she started a fashion and jewelry design label "Alexandra Originals."

Mirjana J. Ugrinov's work is presently represented by Deborah A. Gross and by Bonfoey Gallery in Cleveland, Concept Art Gallery in Pittsburgh, Pa., and Art Options Inc. in New York City.

Artist Statement - Mirjana J. Ugrinov

About the Paper Works

In 1979 birth was given to my first quilted paper construction. The technique of sewing together pieces of folded, painted and dyed paper bags gave comfort to my way of thinking and physical process of creating. The fact that a disposable shopping bag could be manipulated into a beautiful and lasting new form was challenging and pleasing because of the transformation it offered. Something unnoticed, neglected, unappealing and narrow in function, had turned itself into a denial of its own preconceived essence. The play with possibilities and the flexibility of this idea slowly became a perpetual force in my work. Lace, ribbon, silk, wood, plastic and other materials often were added to enhance the paper. Nonfunctional grids with puffed-up segments stuffed like quilts were a result of this interaction. The quilt-like quality was present in their immediate appearance and personally, I enjoyed the associations - nostalgia, security, warmth, sleep, dreams, childhood, love...

Recently, two new elements have surfaced in my image making process: an accent on the brush stroke and a distortion of the grid. The play of endless possibilities derived from the interaction of color and the spontaneous stroke, has become a joyful and simple refuge from the painstaking process of struggling with the stubborn properties of paper that needed folding, cutting and ironing.

Pattern and texture have resulted from an almost unconscious use of color and the brush. The stroke has become a quiet mantra--the essence of a truly ceremonial, step by step, drop by drop process--and the shape of what was once a paper quilt, has slowly outstretched into space as if it has acquired the soul of a being--long, wide, solemn, happy, dancing, observing, moving or frozen...

New possibilities have surfaced again - the door for expression of other life long personal obsessions has opened. A fascination with costume and body adornment even beyond function, and an interest in primitive rituals have found new means for expression of self invented symbology. The quilt has become a silhouette or a fragment of a being in some decorated ceremonial garb--a being identified by its color and shape, movement or the lack of it--a being iconic and sacred. The procession of their forms continues endlessly through my mind. They will materialize slowly to surprise, the way every newborn must surprise its mother, who is sometimes deceived in her self-righteous thought that she created it. The "how" is no secret, the process could be talked about forever... the "why" is the mystery.

Artist Statement - Mirjana J. Ugrinov

About the Jewelry and Silk

The "ritualistic" is currently a common denominator in all of my work. Through functional pieces, an effort is made - similiar to the one in my works in paper - to combine the precious and not so precious materials for the sake of their own denial; the physical substance then takes second place to "the spirit" of the work - to its emotional and visual content. I hope that to the wearer, these pieces will be what they have been to me - objects of fun, fantasy and flexibility.

The title of each piece suggests some charm-like use, in this, encouraging the wearer to continue the creative process by believing in its meaning an adding to it. The life and value of each piece, to me, is in that very process, which is changeable, continuous and vital.

May 1986

Rit·u·al (rich'ə·al) n. 1. A prescribed form or method for the performance of a religious or solemn ceremony; any body of rites or ceremonies. 2. A book setting forth such a system of rites or observances.

Rite (rit) n. 1. A solemn or religious ceremony performed in a manner, or the words or acts consisting or accompanying it. 2. Any formal custom or practice. [L ritus]

Rituals

Paper, Jewelry, Silk

Mirjana J. Ugrinov

Bridge Gallery

3300 Mayfield Rd., Cleveland Hts., Ohio 216/932-2662

This showing of work by Yugoslavian-born Mirjana Ugrinov combines acrylic and collage on sewn paper wall hangings, silk scarves, and hand-made jewelry. She comes to the fine-art tradition of viewable objects (which she studied in the United States) through costume and stage design (which she studied in Yugoslavia) and dance. Her work incorporates theatrical and dance notions into the visual art tradition, uniting movement with stasis, gesture with vision.

The title of the show, Rituals, points to the conceptual unity which underlies these apparently diverse artifacts. For Ugrinov, the process of fashioning a work from brute matter has become a ritual of transubstantiation, akin to the Eucharist, whereby the body of experience is transformed into spirit. Ugrinov's notion of spirit both illumines and embodies the feeling of mystery, that mysteriously blank face the world wears when awareness becomes aware of itself being aware of the world about it. This uncanny experience of the mysterious thus arises in the feeling of standing outside of experience (as voyeur) simultaneously as one feels completely immersed within a totality vastly larger than one's notion of oneself. Ugrinov's works approach this doubling of consciousness through a material rite (ritual) of passage, whereby everyday materials such as paper bags, bolts of silk, clay, feathers, etc. are invested with or become the vehicles, containers, or channels for a life-force or spirit which should manifest itself to those who view and/or wear them.

Most of the works on paper elaborate a grid format. The rational, repetitive nature of the grid structure allows the artist maximal freedom for spontaneous gesture within each

cell of the grid. The overall configuration of the grids is arrived at through the working process, which is not premeditated. Often the finished works suggest personages: men, women, totems, dancers. In this manner the artist colonizes inhuman mystery with the projection of human presence. The entire range of human experience becomes invested with the power to recuperate itself, to bridge that old chasm between subject and object.

Price Range: \$50 to \$1,300.

John Byrum for The New Art Examiner

MIRJANA J. UGRINOV

2844 Mayfield Rd. Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118 (216) 371-8265

Exhibitions:

Fine Arts Juried Art Exhibit of Subotica Artists
Subotica, Yugoslavia 1969

Undergraduate Studio Art Exhibition
Hopkins Hall - Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 1974

Undergraduate Student Painting and Drawing Exhibit
Hopkins Hall - OSU
Columbus, Ohio 1975

Undergraduate Annual Ceramics Exhibit
Hopkins Hall - OSU
Columbus, Ohio 1975

Student Ceramic Exhibit - Low Fire
Hopkins Hall - OSU
Columbus, Ohio 1975

Undergraduate Student Show
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio 1976

Student Show - Jewelry
Kent State University Gallery
Kent, Ohio 1977

Student Sculpture Show
Kent State University Gallery
Kent, Ohio 1977

Senior Project - One person painting show
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio 1977

Two Women Show - Invitational
Paintings, Drawings and Jewelry
by Susan Weir and Mirjana Ugrinov
Heights Guild of Artists and Artisans Gallery
Cleveland, Ohio 1978

May Show 1979
Juried, Annual;
The Cleveland Museum of Art
Cleveland, Ohio 1979

M. Ugrinov - Exhibitions (cont.)

Two Women Show: Ugrinov/Porcelli
Soft Sculpture - Ceramics
Coventry Art Gallery
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 1979

Quilt National '79
Juried
Athens, Ohio 1979

PAPERMAKER - PAPERSHAPE
National, invitational
Akron Art Institute, Akron, Ohio
Traveling Exhibit of new approaches to paper
(Art work on loan until July 1980) 1979

32nd Annual Ohio Ceramic Sculpture and
Craft Show
The Butler Institute of American Art
Youngstown, Ohio
*Honorable Mention 1980

Jewish Community Center Annual Invitational
Painting Show
JCC Gallery, Cleveland Hts., Ohio 1980

Crafts Show - Invitational
Coventry Art Gallery
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 1980

UNTITLED
Invitational Group Show
Coventry Art Gallery
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 1981

Faculty Art Show
Cooper School of Art Gallery
Cleveland, Ohio 1981

Art Benefit Show for Judy Chicago "Dinner Party"
Organized by The Ohio - Chicago Art Project
Coventry Art Gallery
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 1981

Commercial Art Show
Faculty Show,
Cooper School of Art Gallery
Cleveland, Ohio 1982

Needle Arts, Juried
The Butler Institute of American Art
Youngstown, Ohio 1982

M. Ugrinov - Exhibitions (cont.)

Self Portrait Show
Faculty Show
Cooper School of Art
Cleveland, Ohio 1982

Works of Paper
Juried, FAVA Gallery
Oberlin, Ohio 1982

NOVA Members Show
Juried - Cleveland State University Gallery
Cleveland, Ohio 1982

Valentine Images III
Invitational Group Show
Fiori Gallery
Cleveland, Ohio 1983

Stitchery International '83
Juried Biannual
Pittsburgh Center for the Arts
Pittsburgh, PA. 1983

New Contemporary Quilt
Concept Art Gallery - Invitational
National Show
Pittsburgh, PA. 1984

An Exhibition of Women's Work
Invitational Group Show
Gloria Plevin Gallery
Chautauqua, N.Y. 1985

Stitchery '85 International
Juried Biannual
Pittsburgh Center for the Arts
Pittsburgh, PA. 1985
Jurors: Douglas Pichering - CMU, Leuore Davis &
Mary Bean

31st Annual Art Show - JCC
Columbus Museum of Art
Cleveland, Ohio 1985
Juried - Steven Rosen

Fine Arts Association Juried Exhibition
Willoughby, Ohio 1985
Jurors: Rob Mihali & Edward Henning CMA

Peoples Art Show
Cleveland State University Gallery
Cleveland, Ohio 1985

M. Ugrinov - Exhibitions (cont.)

"Materializations II" - Juried, NOVA sponsored
Craft Show
Beachwood Place
Cleveland, Ohio 1986

"A Piece for Peace" - Invitational, co-sponsored
by Fiori/Signet Gallery
Cleveland, Ohio 1986
(Unifying Ohio for Peace Week)

Fiber & Jewelry Show - Invitational
Vally Art Center
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 1986
Juror: Mary Kay Simoni

1986 May Show - Juried
Cleveland Museum of Art
Cleveland, Ohio 1986

"Rituals" - Paper, Jewelry, Silk
One Person Show
Bridge Gallery - Park Synagogue
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 1986
Curator: Deborah Gross

"Home Is Where The Art Is"
Juried, Group Show sponsored
by Heights Community Congress
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 1986

Response '86 - Challenging Concepts
National Juried Exhibition
Union Art Gallery
The University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee 1986

Peoples Art Show III
Cleveland State University Gallery
Director - Donald Desmett
Cleveland, Ohio 1986

- 1987
- "INFINITE DIVERSITY IN INFINITE COMBINATION"
MASSILLON MUSEUM
INVITATIONAL - OHIO WOMEN ARTIST SHOW
COMMEMORATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
 - MASKS FOR MODERN LIFE - JURIED
VALLEY ART CENTER, CHAGRIN FALLS
 - STITCHERY INTERNATIONAL '87
BIENNIAL, JURIED
PITTSBURGH CENTER FOR THE ARTS
PITTSBURGH, PA.

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 79

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on Cleveland Artists.

FULL NAME: MIRJANA J. UGRINOV

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 10/13/1950 SUBOTICA, YUGOSLAVIA

PRIMARY MEDIA PAINTING

ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.:

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, COLUMBUS, OHIO
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY, KENT, OHIO (BFA)

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:

STUDENT SHOW - OHIO STATE UNIV.
STUDENT SCULPTURE SHOW - KENT STATE UNIV.
PAINTING SHOW - KENT, OHIO
2 WOMEN SHOW - HEIGHTS GUILD OF ARTISTS - CLEVELAND
QUILT NATIONAL SHOW - ATHENS, OHIO
UGRINOV - PORCELLI SHOW - COVENTRY ART GALLERY - CLEVE.
PAPER SHOW - ARTMOBILE - ARRON ART INSTITUTE

COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

OHIO OPTOMETRIC SOCIETY - COLS. OHIO
HILLANDAR ROOM - PAINTING ON PERM. DISPLAY AT OHIO STATE
OUTSIDE FRESCO PAINTING IN COLUMBUS, MAIN LIBRARY
(ST. STEVAN OF DECHANI CHURCH) (COLS)
PRIVATE COLLECTIONS IN EUROPE AND USA
AWARDS:

PRESENT POSITION:

STUDIO ARTIST, ART INSTRUCTOR (COOPER SCHOOL OF ART)
GALLERY OWNER AND DIRECTOR

We would appreciate any information regarding subsequent awards, purchases, exhibitions and scholarships.
Thank you for your cooperation.